



MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents and Administrators

FROM: Amanda (Snobarger) Culhan, Indiana School Counselor Consultant

DATE: January 29, 2010

SUBJECT: National School Counseling Week

Indiana will join the country in celebrating National School Counseling Week, February 1-5, 2010, to recognize the unique contributions of professional school counselors in improving student achievement and preparing all K-12 students for success in the future.

Just as teachers are responsible for helping students learn academic content standards, Indiana's 1,800 school counselors teach student guidance standards that help all students achieve academically, overcome obstacles to learning, and ensure that students are college and career ready.

Middle and high school counselors help students complete Graduation Plans, select rigorous high school courses, enroll in the 21st Century Scholars Program, and prepare for career and college success. Elementary school counselors, whose numbers are small in Indiana, facilitate lessons at the school-wide, classroom, small group and individual levels on such topics as bullying prevention, appropriate behavior, saying no to drugs, goal setting, study skills, and many more. All school counselors are responsible for supporting a safe learning environment and addressing the academic, social/emotional, and behavioral needs of all students through methods of assessment, prevention, and intervention.

The average ratio of students to school counselors in Indiana is 533 to every one school counselor. Research conducted jointly by Purdue University and Indiana University found that counselors in Indiana schools with lower student to counselor ratios have a greater impact on preventing student dropouts and raising student ISTEP+ scores than schools with higher ratios.

The Indiana School Counselor Association, Indiana Counseling Association and Indiana Association of College Admission Counseling encourage parents and schools to take a moment to recognize their local school counselor during National School Counseling Week.

For more information contact:

Amanda (Snobarger) Culhan, IDOE School Counselor Consultant

317-232-0150 asnobarg@doe.in.gov

American School Counselor Association: www.schoolcounselor.org

Indiana School Counselor Association: <http://isca-in.org/>

Indiana Association of College Admissions Counseling: www.iacac.net

Indiana Counseling Association – www.indianacounseling.org

Indiana Department of Education – School Counseling: www.doe.in.gov/sservices/sc.htm.